

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 140500Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3937

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR EG

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TWA RESTRICTIONS

REF: CAIRO 4325

1. TWA MANAGER CARROLL INFORMED EMBASSY MAY 13 THAT HE HAS HELD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH EGYPTAIR HEAD GEN ERFAN AND FOUAD MOURSY OF THE MIN CIV AVIATION CONCERNING PROPOSED GOE RESTRICTIONS ON TWA FLIGHTS TO ROME AND ATHENS. NEITHER MEETING PRODUCED ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THAT DAILY TWA FLIGHT TO ROME AND ATHENS SEVERLY CUT INTO EGYPTAIR PASSENGER TRAFFIC TO THOSE TWO CITIES. CARROLL SAID HE HAD DENIED THIS AND EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THEIR POOR BOOKING PROCEDURES AND FLIGHT SCHEDULES WERE PROBABLY MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS THAN ADDITIONAL TWA FLIGHTS.

2. CARROLL ALSO TOLD MOURSY THAT BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS WHICH GOE THREAT TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS CAUSED, HE HAD BEEN NOTIFIED BY HIS HEADQUARTERS THAT TWA DAILY FLIGHTS WOULD BE CUT BACK TO 4 UNDER NEW WINTER SCHEDULE STARTING OCTOBER. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, MOURSY EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN OVER THIS CUTBACK, NOTING THAT HIS MINISTER HAD ENDORSED FONMIN FAHMY'S VIEW THAT MORE RATHER THAN LESS FLIGHTS INTO EGYPT WERE POLITICALLY DESIRABLE.

3. CARROLL NOTED THAT, AT CONCLUSION OF HIS MEETING WITH MOURSY, LATTER INDICATED THAT THIS MATTER WOULD PROBABLY NOW HAVE TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HANDLED IN CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS. IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO

CARROLL WHETHER GOE INTENDED TO TAKE INITIATIVE TO PROPOSE SUCH CONSULTATIONS.

4. CARROLL TOLD DCM THAT HE WAS PROPOSING TO HIS PRINCIPALS A REVISED DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FLIGHTS TO US VIA ATHENS AND PARIS 4 DAYS A WEEK AND VIA ROME AND MADRID THE REMAINING 3 DAYS. HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT THIS COULD BE ARRANGED, BUT THOUGHT THAT THIS MIGHT MEET EGYPTIAN OBJECTIONS.

5. CARROLL ALSO PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH COPY OF LETTER FROM DIR GEN OF AIR TRANSPORT DEPT, MIN CIV AVIATION WHICH ADVISES THAT THE "CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION HAS AGREED TO LIFT THE FIFTH FREEDOM RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THE SECTORS ATHENS/CAIRO/ATHENS AND ROME/CAIRO/ROME UNTIL 30/6/1975 OR UNTIL EFFECTING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST."

6. EMBASSY PROPOSES TO AWAIT RESULTS OF CARROLL'S INQUIRY WITH HIS HEADQUARTERS REGARDING SCHEDULE REVISION BEFORE CONSIDERING ANY FURTHER ACTION. AT THIS POINT IN TIME IT WOULD APPEAR PREFERABLE TO AWAIT AN APPROACH FROM GOE REGARDING CONSULTATIONS SINCE POST-PONEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS STILL HAS APPROXIMATELY 6 WEEKS TO RUN. ANY COMMENTS WHICH DEPT MIGHT HAVE ON THIS SITUATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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